Package programme for Kachch-Saurashtra region of Gujarat

634. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since worked out any comprehensive and well-integrated package of programme to deal with special problems of the Kachch-Saurashtra region, particularly the regional disparity in the economic development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the specific steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) No specific programme has been worked out to deal with special problems of Kutch-Saurashtra region of Gujarat. However, Government of India is implementing various schemes in different States/Union Territories including Gujarat for overall development of the country. Government of India with participation of State Governments is implementing programmes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment, Indira Awas Yojana, Million Wells Scheme, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, etc. Gujarat is also a beneficiary of Border Area Development Programme, which is being implemented in States having International Borders. In addition to these schemes, Government of Gujarat also implements various socio-economic programmes under Tribal Sub-Plan for which Special Central Assistance is provided to the State.

EAS in Madhya Pradesh

635. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Employment Assurance Scheme;

(b) whether Government have extended the Scheme to rural areas of Madhya Pradesh which are very backward;

(c) if so, the progress made in implementing the scheme; and

(d) if not, by when Governmet propose to extend the scheme in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) The salient features of the EAS is given statement (*see* below)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The scheme has been extended to 394 blocks of the State out of the total of 459 blocks. The remaining blocks will be covered under the scheme during 1997-98. The State Government has utilised Rs. 58.54 crores against availability of Rs. 219.50 crores during the current year generating 97.22 lakh mandays (upto August, 1996).

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was introduced w.e.f. 2.10.1993 in the rural areas to provide assured employment of 100 days of unskilled manual work to the rural poor who are in need of employment during the lean agricultural season. The secondary objective of the scheme is creation of economic infrastructure and community assets for sustained employment generation. The scheme is being implemented in 3206 blocks of the country and it is being extended to another 1123 blocks of the country during the current year.

Scope of EAS:

The EAS is opened to all rural poor residing in the areas covered under the scheme. EAS is targetted to the poor who are needy and want work, A maximum of two adults per family would be provided assured employment upto 100 days during lean agricultural season if and when they seek it. New works will not be opened under the scheme, if employment potential is available through plan and non-plan works are already in progress and assurance would be fulfilled by utilising the same.

Planning, Organisation & Implementation of works under EAS:

The expenditure under EAS is shared between the Centre and States on 80 : 20 basis. The Central assistance under the Scheme is directrly released to the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishada (ZPs). Since EAS is a demand driven scheme, there is no fixed allocation for a district and no targets are fixed. A district can seek next instalment of EAS funds after utilising more than 50% of the available funds.

The District Collector/Deputy Commissioner of the district is the overall incharge of the EAS as the Implementing Authority. He is responsible for allocating the work in the district among various implementing agencies. All implementing agencies are responsible to the Disrict Collector/Deputy Commissioner for preparing, maintenance of accounts of the expenditure incurred, measurements of physical work done, payment of wages to labour, etc. Block-wise plan for various works are required to be prepared by the implementing agencies and the same are to be submitted to the Collector by October every year. On the basis of this, block-wise plans, the Collector should prepare a shelf of productive work containing (a) block-wise works under normal plan/non-plan budget and (b) new works which should be taken up under EAS in each block area.

All work started under EAS should be labour intensive works i.e. wage to material ratio should be 60 : 40. Works requiring larger component of materials like cement, steel etc. should not be sanctioned under the EAS unless the excess cost of material component is proivided from other Central programmes.

Inspection and Vigilance:

The scheme provides regular inspection of works by the implèmenting authorities i.e. District Collectors/Project directors, Sub-Divisional Officers, Tehsildars etc. At the State level, there is a Coordination Committee for rural development programmes which is responsible for the over all supervision, guidance and monotiring of EAS. The States are also required to constitute a District EAS. Committee in every district where the scheme is in operation and Block EAS Committee in every block covered by EAS. Prominent elected representatives and NGOs should be associated with these Committees.

Plant load factor of Power Plants

636. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the plant load factor of each power plant working under the Central Government as well as those owned by States during the last three years;

(b) what was the standard PLF when these plants were installed and what are the reasons for not achieving the same plant load availability;

(c) whether the Central/State Governments were able to increase plant load factor by improving the efficiency of their plants, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is a fact that if all the power plants in the country work efficiently, we can meet our total requirement of power by the end of 2000 AD?